If you are a sentient being that resides within Canada (or so-called Canada, as some call it), you are probably aware of Donald Trump's tariff threats and the supposedly fierce backlash these provocations have caused amongst your fellow citizens.

Seemingly overnight, otherwise timid and feeble citizens of the Great White North were transformed into chest-beating and chauvinistic nationalists, eager to defend the sovereignty of the Dominion of Canada.

Yet this performance inevitably invites questions. Namely, what about Canada do they see as worth defending? And what were these "patriots" advocating for in the years leading up to these recent events?

Thanks for reading! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.

Cargo Cults

Before World War II, many Melanesians in places such as the Solomon Islands or Vanuatu had never encountered things that we would consider to be hallmarks of modernity—airplanes, motorized vehicles, radios, etc.

However, Japanese imperialism in the Pacific theater of the war and the American response exposed many of these isolated peoples to such devices for the first time. This proved to be deeply traumatic for many of them, and shook their worldviews in such dramatic ways that they developed bizarre rituals and spiritual belief systems based around their interactions with this new technology

In particular, many of them resorted to making recreations of the devices they had seen for the first time out of commonly used materials on these islands, such as wood and straw.

Now let us return to Canada’s current predicament.

For decades, Canada has enjoyed unprecedented levels of peace, prosperity, and security. However, despite the claims of many rabid anti-Americans in this country, much of this was due to our close proximity to the United States.

With the strongest military power the world had ever seen as our closest ally and only direct neighbour, our national security was assumed to be taken care of—meaning that investments in our own military seemed gratuitous and unnecessary.

We also enjoyed the luxury of living next door to a massive economic powerhouse, which made selling our goods to a foreign market incredibly easy.

In other words, we became decadent and complacent, as we weren't facing any imminent threats.

It was in this environment of luxury and stability that Justin Trudeau rose to power in 2015 and promptly proclaimed Canada to be the first "post-national state".

Over the following decade, a series of drastic and sweeping cultural changes occurred, leading to a sharp decline in Canadian patriotism.

Statues were torn down, streets renamed, churches were burned, the flag was flown at half mast for six months, and Canada was deemed to be an irredeemable and genocidal settler colonialist abomination that was built on blood and exploitation.

One of the most extreme manifestations of this self-flagellation—which I alluded to earlier—went as far as to deny Canada's right to be a sovereign nation (hence the term "so-called Canada").

And although this zeitgeist may have reached its peak during the mass graves hoax of 2021, it was still very much alive and well when then-President-elect Donald Trump started threatening to slap Canada with tariffs and make our country the 51st State.

Suddenly, the Laurentian Elite—who had previously taken Canada's security for granted and had spent the past decade indulging in radical social engineering experiments—found itself in a position akin to the Melanesians in the South Pacific who had encountered outsiders and modern technology for the first time.

They were completely shocked and blindsided.

Donald Trump—a man who many of them earnestly believe is the Orange Reincarnation of Hitler—had, perplexingly to them, won the Electoral College, completed his political comeback arc, and was now shitposting about annexing Canada.

When any country is threatened, a renewed sense of jingoistic nationalism and a “rally around the flag effect” is inevitable (the U.S. after 9/11 is a good example).

Yet the very people now tasked with protecting our sovereignty were the exact same ones who had encouraged the intellectual and cultural forces that led to terms such as “so-called Canada” becoming widely used in academia.

So, despite their best efforts at projecting a sense of fierce loyalty and commitment to Canada, their attempts at nationalism boil down to nothing more than a feeble and reactionary anti-American hatred; with our history trashed and living standards degraded, they have no substance to defend and nothing left to stand on.

What they have created in the last few months resembles the wooden planes constructed by the Melanesian peoples—it includes the outer trappings of something, but fundamentally isn’t that thing in a very obvious way.

In other words, what they have created is a cargo cult.

Thanks for reading! Subscribe for free to receive new posts and support my work.